

Introduction

Welcome to the first volume of the new journal *Language and Psychoanalysis*. The journal aims to provide a space that enables researchers with an interest in the intersection between language and psychoanalysis to share their work with academics, students and other individuals, and thus to contribute to the exploration and understanding of the relationship between language and psychoanalysis.

It is obvious that language represents one of the key components of psychoanalytic theories. Despite the importance of language within psychoanalysis, it appears that only a limited amount of literature has been devoted to this topic. For example, some empirical research studies explored longitudinal language changes in psychotherapy sessions, including emotional-cognitive processes, the dynamic construction of meaning, and self-reflective processes, to mention a few. The majority of these studies have been published in a very narrow selection of psychoanalytic journals only which seems to reflect a lack of publishing opportunities within this field of interest. Considering the importance of language as a means to understand and interpret inter- and intra-psychic processes within psychotherapy sessions, the low frequency of language-based psychoanalytic studies seems simply unjustifiable. Particularly within a diverse and changing sociocultural landscape, including immigration, social class, gender and sexuality, religion, the use of language assumes greater significance in relation to the understanding and formulation of psychoanalytic theories and their therapeutic applications. Similarly, the use of psychoanalytic theories gains greater significance within linguistics and literary studies as a means to provide a greater depth to the interpretation of language processes.

This journal is a first step to further an increased empirical interest within the field of language and psychoanalysis, as well as the development of novel methodologies, and thus to further the understanding of our and others' unconscious processes that make us say the things we do.

The Editors – Laura A. Cariola and Andrew Wilson